

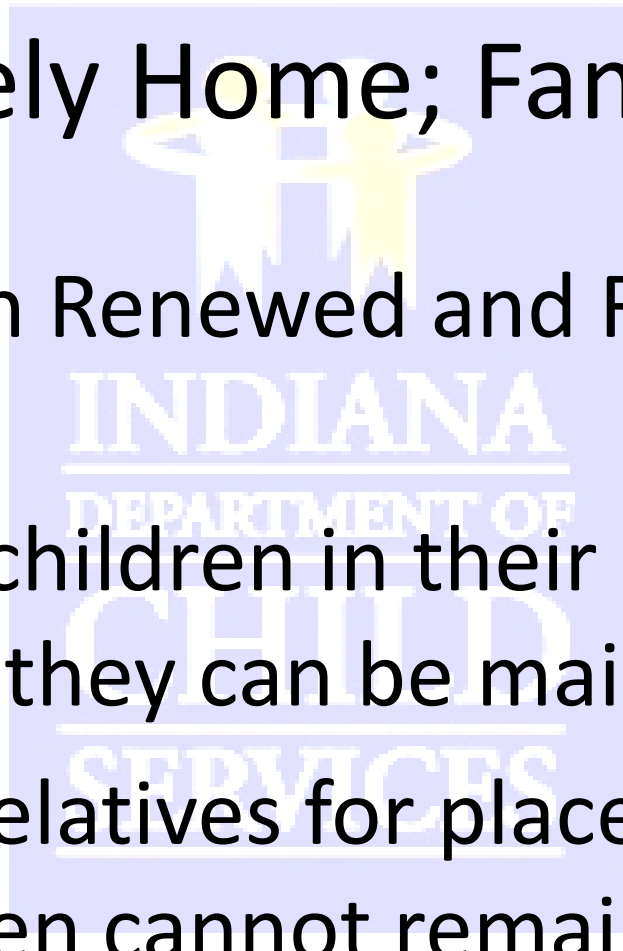


# Safely Home; Families First

- Newly formed Permanency and Practice Support Division
- Focus on SHFF, Permanency
- Central Office supports the Field through this Division
- Casey Family Programs provides technical support to DCS through this process

# Safely Home; Families First

- Focus on Renewed and Redoubled Efforts to
  - Keep children in their own homes when they can be maintained safely
  - Find relatives for placement when children cannot remain in their own homes



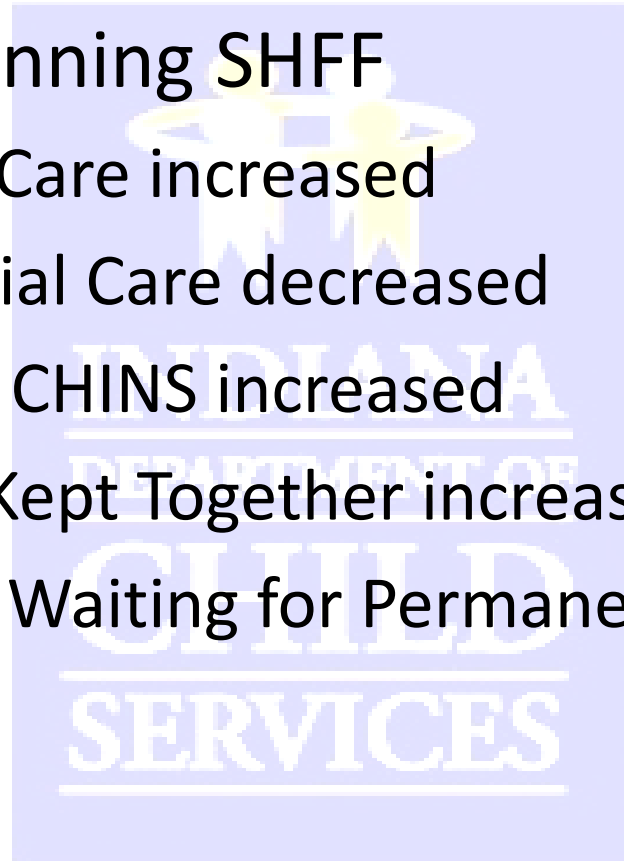
# Safely Homes; Families First

- Permanency and Practice Support Unit in Central Office provides:
  - Support for Permanency through
    - Permanency Teams
    - Permanency Roundtables
    - Adoption Unit
    - Youth Connections
    - Guardianship Program
  - Support for SHFF thru
    - Parent/Relative Locators
    - CANS expertise/assistance
    - Research Findings/Summaries on Website
    - Still developing more ideas for support such as inservices for additional skill development



# Safely Home; Families First

- Since beginning SHFF
  - Relative Care increased
  - Residential Care decreased
  - In Home CHINS increased
  - Siblings Kept Together increased
  - Children Waiting for Permanency days decreased



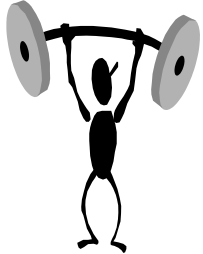
# Comparison

**November 2007**

**January 2012**

- Relative - 15.94%
  - Residential - 10.42%
  - Own Home – 27%
  - Siblings Kept Together – 63.89%
  - Days in out of home Placement – 460 days
- Relative – 39.5%
  - Residential – 7.7%
  - Own Home – 30%
  - Siblings Kept Together – 74.2%
  - Days in out of home Placement - 393

# Assessing for Protective Factors



Parental strengths that prevent and reduce the likelihood of abuse or neglect include 5 protective factors:

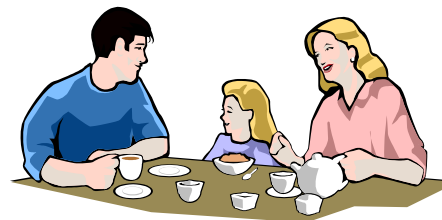
- Nurturing & Attachment
- Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development
- Family Functioning & Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports for Parents



# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Nurturing & Attachment

- 2 conditions that establish the closeness between the parent and the child.
- Nurturing is the result of the actions performed by the parent or caregiver to provide support and/or nourishment to help a child develop.
- Attachment is the connection or affection that exists between 2 individuals





# Assessing for Protective Factors

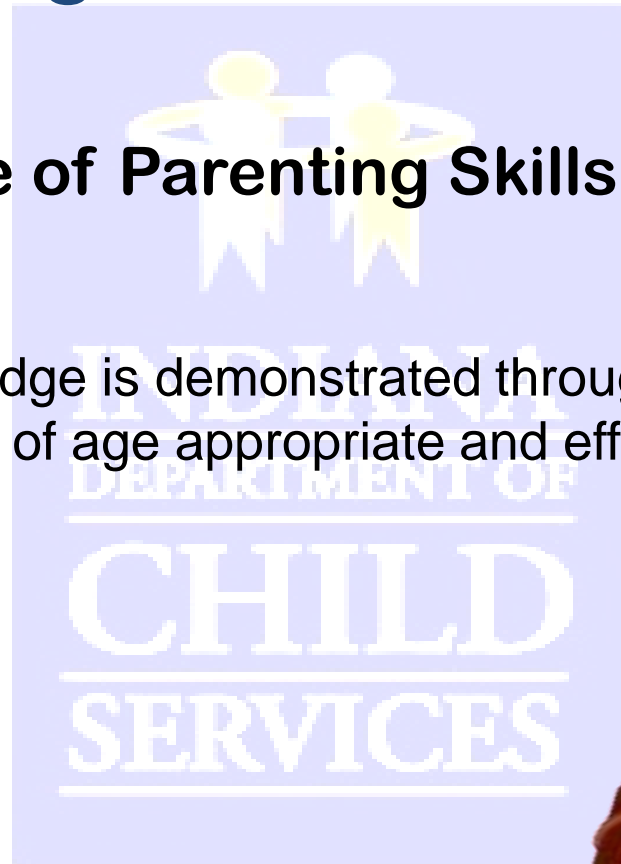
## Signs of Nurturing & Attachment

- Exchange of smiles, hugs and kisses between child and parent
- Parent listens to child and is attentive and sensitive to child's needs
- Parent speaks of child in positive terms even when discussing problems
- Parent participates in activities involving the child such as school, sports, play etc.
- Parent participates in activities that child wants/likes
- Parent expresses pride in child's accomplishments
- Parent is able to soothe child
- Parent indicates happiness in being with the child

# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development

Parent knowledge is demonstrated through discussion and demonstration of age appropriate and effective child management techniques.



# Assessing for Protective Factors

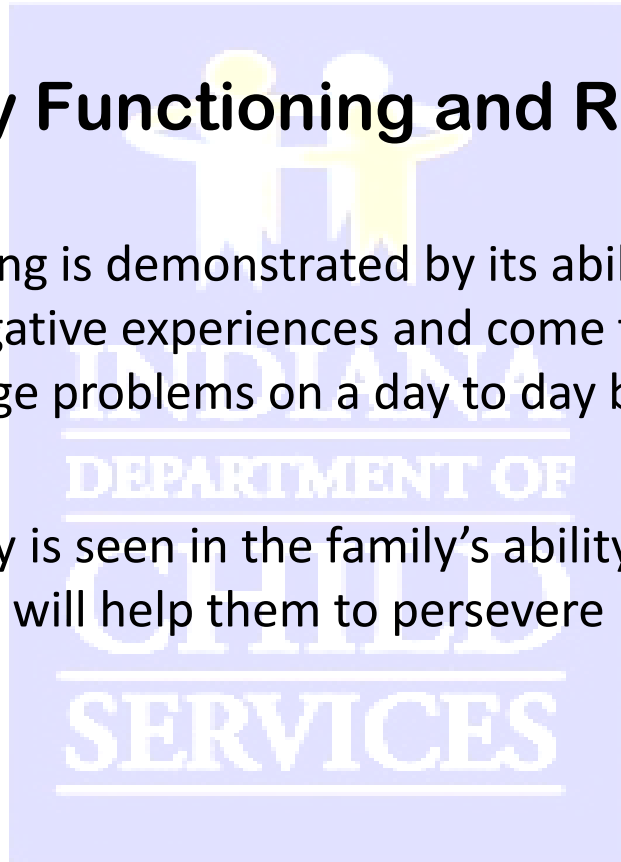
## Signs of Knowledge of Parenting Skills & Youth Development

- Parents are realistic about expectations
- Parents provide clear and consistent messages
- Parent has some idea of what to do for child
- Parent provides structure and support
- Parent speaks to child in age appropriate manner
- Parent praises child when child behaves
- Parent can see misbehavior in the context of the child's developmental needs
- Parent uses age appropriate discipline

# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Family Functioning and Resilience

- Family functioning is demonstrated by its ability to openly share positive and negative experiences and come together to accept, solve and manage problems on a day to day basis.
- Family resiliency is seen in the family's ability to adapt and utilize strategies which will help them to persevere in times of crisis



# Assessing for Protective Factors

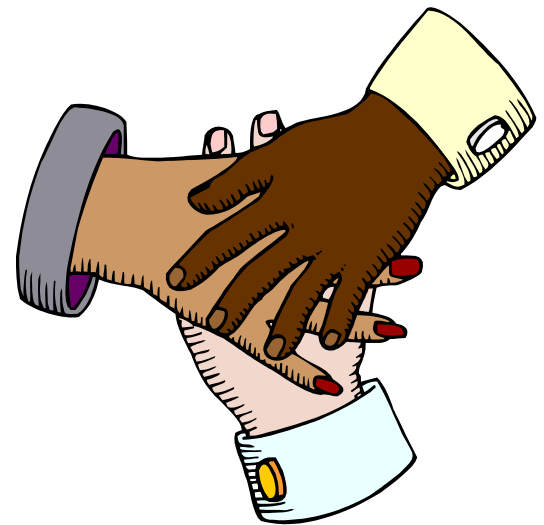
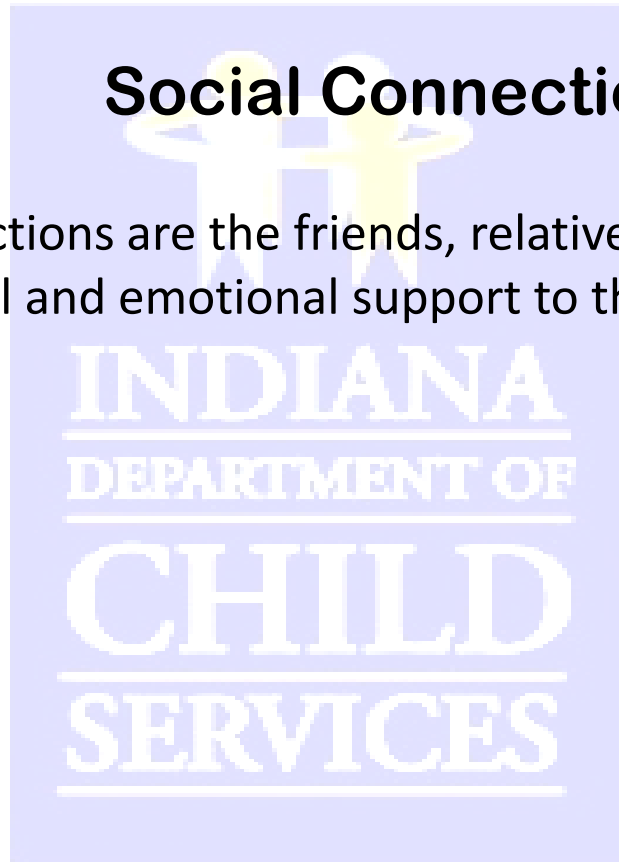
## Signs of Family Functioning and Resilience

- Family members are able to talk about problems
- Family members are able to solve problems
- Family members listen to each other
- The family can discuss past problems that have been addressed successfully
- Family members are able to handle stress without significant negative consequences
- Family members pull together to address problems

# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Social Connections

Social connections are the friends, relatives and neighbors that provide social and emotional support to the parent and/or child.



# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Signs of Social Connections

- The parent is able to identify a person or people who the parent could go to ask for help
- The parent has people with whom he/she interacts frequently
- The extended family participates in activities together such as meals, recreation, holiday get togethers, etc.
- The family is involved Church activities
- The family participates in formal and informal social activities
- The child is active in school or other organized activities
- The child interacts appropriately with other children and adults

# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Concrete Supports for Parents

Concrete supports are the tangible goods and services available to assist the family in coping with stress.

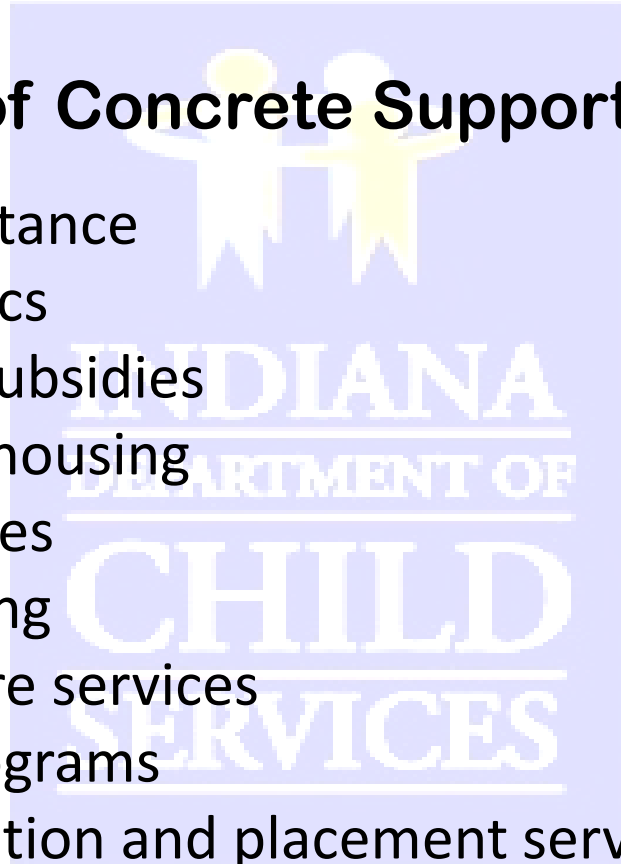




# Assessing for Protective Factors

## Signs of Concrete Supports for Parents

- Public Assistance
- Health Clinics
- Child care subsidies
- Subsidized housing
- Food pantries
- Home visiting
- Child welfare services
- Literacy programs
- Job preparation and placement services
- Financial support from friends or family



# Safely Home; Families First

## Success Stories

